

February 2024  
Volume 28 Issue 2

# Coromandel Town Chronicle

FREE  
Community Magazine

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## Pohutukawa in bloom

SEE PAGE 3

Christmas lunch PG 4



Honey bees skit PG 10



MEG presentation PG 26



**Haere mai. Welcome to the  
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Cover photo: Waiomu beach

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St John say performing continuous chest  
compressions/calling 111 takes priority.

..... Editor's comment .....

I'm writing this from a campsite on the Otago Peninsula, as I am spending most of January touring around the South Island. I will be back in time to pick the printed copies of this Chronicle up from the printers and get them out to you.

I hope you all have had a good January. Weren't the pohutukawa spectacular? You'll see my photos on the cover and page 3 that I took in Waiomu in December. I have seen plenty of beautiful pohutukawa in the South Island too.

Looking back to the February issue two years ago I was busy writing in my editorial about the restrictions under the red setting for Covid – and although they talk on the TV about another wave of Covid, it is so good that we don't have to live under any restrictions any more.

Check out the calendar on page 30 of this issue and have a good February.

*Debbie*

..... Letters .....

**Problem privet**

Coromandel needs to take a good hard look at itself. We don't want to look like Thames, do we?

See all those trees with yellow flowers on them? That is tree privet, *Ligustrum lucidum*.

If tree privet is left unchecked our streets and hillsides will be cloaked in yellow flowers every January.

Asthmatics and hay fever sufferers will be gasping and wheezing and our local biodiversity will be left wanting.

What type of Coromandel do we want? A chorus of bird song, amongst an abundance of native trees or the hacking and sneezing of allergy sufferers due to the invasion of this pesky plant?

Take a look around the place and realise the exponential spread that is about to happen. With those yellow flowers each turning into multiple seeds. Just like the Taiwanese cherry, birds are spreading the seeds further afield, up onto the hills and into neighbouring properties.

Tree privet is a noxious weed. It penetrates deep into the native bush and grows in all conditions from shade to full sun, damp or dry. It will form dense monocultures and progressively take over.

We have a chance to stop this weed, choosing not to have our hills looking like Thames, covered in an invasive exotic pest plant.

So what can you do?

If you have privet growing on your land, please take responsibility and remove it.

If you see it on your neighbour's property, talk to them, maybe even lend them your chainsaw.

If you see it in Council reserves, put pressure on TCDC and Environment Waikato to do something about it.

If we don't collectively join together to eradicate this invasive plant, we will regret it.

Regards,  
Ben Conway



Example of privet in Coromandel Town

Email letters and opinion pieces to the *Coromandel Town Chronicle* corochronicle@gmail.com. Contributions should be kept short, and should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit them for clarity and space.

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**Pohutukawa in bloom**

We have had a full display of pohutukawa this summer, with the entire peninsula putting on a great display of red flowers. This photo was taken in Waiomu.

A RNZ report at the end of December commented on the spectacular flowering of pohutukawa in New Zealand this summer saying that, "Botanists call this a 'mast seeding' event. It begins with prolific flowering followed by the production of huge amounts of seeds. It's likely happening across a range of species, but the crimson flowers on large, coastal pohutukawa are particularly noticeable."



**Bus Matters**

By Lora Mountjoy

After a few years of campaigning to get a bus service between Coromandel Town and Thames, I am delighted that the TCDC has come on board and is now trialling a service four days a week.

There are a lot of good things about this, including that it is currently free! Also I feel that the times will suit a lot of us. The first bus leaves at 8am from Coromandel and returns at 10am. That really suited a woman the day I was on the bus, as she had time to pick up her cat from the vet and get back in the morning.

Then in the afternoon a bus leaves Thames at 3pm, returning directly after passengers get off in Coromandel. This gave me time to do a lot of small errands and visit a friend in Thames. The schedule also connects with buses to and from Auckland and Tauranga. If you want to find out more details, including how to book, check out online by entering "TCDC Coromandel Bus".

However, the "trial" will end on **Monday 18 March**, and unless the service is used we can say goodbye to a regular bus any time in the future. If you think you, your family, friends or customers may ever need this, make an effort to go on a trip today.

Because I am known as someone with an interest in this, I have had several people tell me what they want which is not included in the current service. For example, you currently need to book, which includes a separate phone call for morning and afternoon buses. Some would prefer to just turn up at the stop, and as the bus wasn't full the day I went, this seems like a good option. Another idea was that people should be able to pick up the bus at stops along the coast, e.g., at Manaia, Waiomu, etc.

Please let the Council know if you want longterm, regular public transport between Coromandel and Thames, and also tell them if there is something which would make it easier for you, and most of all, use it.

This is our chance; let's make it happen.

*Note from Editor: TCDC have now announced that the Connector Bus trial service is looking to add up to five pick-up stops at main coastal settlements en-route by the beginning of February – so that is good news.*

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- Minimise your speed and wake
- Never drive across the lines

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### Coromandel Community Christmas Lunch

By Rita, Lynne, Chris and all those naughty elves

Christmas 2023 was the 5th anniversary of the Coromandel Community Christmas Lunch. This is a very special occasion when so many people come together in different ways. There are those who attend (many of them helping in some way as well as enjoying great food), those who donate goods such as produce from gardens or money, then we have those who prepare, those who decorate, plot and plan (ensuring it all goes to plan), and then there are the great cooks.

The coming together of a great cross-section of people signifies a unity and a belief in goodness and wanting to help our community thrive. Coromandel is certainly blessed in abundance with good people who are certainly achieving this.

A special thanks must go to Chris (the owner of Four Square). Chris is and has been a huge supporter of the lunch – we would struggle if it weren't for his incredible generosity. Special mention to renowned singer, song writer, and music coach Anita Prime who generously donated her time to perform for us all.

Thanks to everyone who was involved.

We look forward to hosting you all again at the end of this year.



### A Taste of Matarangi

The countdown is on for a community celebration: A Taste of Matarangi food, wine and music festival by the beach is on **Saturday 6 April**.

A sense of anticipation is building in the air as the countdown is on for the much-anticipated A Taste of Matarangi festival held at the village green reserve on Matarangi Drive. A feast for the senses awaits, featuring an exquisite blend of food, wine and music set against the breathtaking backdrop of Matarangi beach.

Here's why you should mark **Saturday 6 April** on your calendar and get ready for an extraordinary experience.

From mouthwatering street food to gourmet delights, there's something to satiate every palate and a carefully curated selection of wines will be on hand to complement the delectable dishes along with some locally brewed beers and ciders.

What's a feast without a musical backdrop? The beachside stage will come alive with the sounds of talented musicians. Feel the rhythm, embrace the melody, and let the music carry you away.

Engage in family activities, ensuring an enjoyable experience for all ages.

In the spirit of giving back, the festival hosts a charitable event, encouraging attendees to contribute to a worthy cause through the charity auctions and raffles.

This unique blend of gourmet indulgence, entertainment and community support makes A Taste of Matarangi a not-to-be-missed celebration, bringing people together for a day of joy, generosity and shared experiences.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit our website [www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz](http://www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz)

### Coromandel Home Grown Community Market

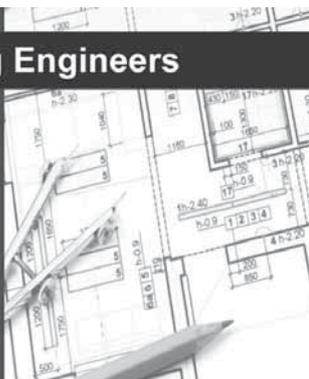
Our regular Friday market will continue until the end of April, with the exception of Waitangi market, which will be on the Saturday before Waitangi Day, that is **Saturday 3 February**. Waitangi day is on Tuesday 6 February. At Easter we also have a Saturday market on **Saturday 30 March**, the day after Good Friday. Our only other Saturday market is Matariki and the market is otherwise closed for winter.

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### DCR Photo Archiving Launch



We would like to invite you all to Driving Creek for the launch of our new photo archiving website on **Friday 16 February**, from 11am. We will have the space set up for visitors and friends of Driving Creek to come and learn about, interact with, and have an opportunity to contribute to our project. There will also be a presentation held by Paul Madigan and Gary Hunt, the creators of this new system, at 5pm. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Driving Creek has a colourful history and we have been working hard to preserve it by building a database for all of the wonderful photographs, negatives, slides and images that tell our story. We have built a unique system that allows us to annotate each image, making it possible to search your way through thousands of photos. As so many people have played a part in the creation and continuation of Driving Creek we have a wealth of images, from the blank hillside that Barry purchased in the early 70's to present day. We are very excited to be able to share this with you all and hope to see lots of friendly faces on the 16th.



Barry Brickell with his creations



The ticket office

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## EV ownership

By Chris Ogilvie

A few years ago I wrote an article for the Chronicle on our EV ownership. Here is an update on how things are going.

Kay and I have had our Kia Niro EV now for four years, and clocked up just over 84,000km. Within a few months of buying it, our "range anxiety" reduced to nil. The car has a system that shows you both the percentage of battery charge that you have left, and a remarkably good estimation of the number of kilometres left to go, based on previous usage. It has a 62 kWh battery that will take us to Auckland, or Hamilton, or Tauranga and back on a single charge. Thus we have used a public charging station only 19 times so far. Carrying a large load or driving hard will increase consumption as in any car. We normally cruise at around 100km/hr, along with the rest of the traffic.

The consumption goes up when you go up a hill. But EV's have "regenerative braking" which slows the car by putting the energy back into the battery. Thus we hardly use the brakes at all, just for the last bit of stopping. So the brakes pads are barely worn, even after 84,000km! Going over the Manaia and Kereta hills uses about the same total amount of battery power as going the same distance along the flat at 100km. This is a combined effect of slower speeds on the hills, and recharging the battery on the way down.

Recently we bought a home charger that not only charges at a higher rate, but can be set to charge only when there is an excess of power from the solar panels that we have on the roof. This has greatly improved the amount of charging that comes from sunshine; between that and the "Hour of Power" that our supplier provides free once a day, we now buy very little power to charge the car; it is nearly all free.

We normally set the car to stop charging at 80%; this is easier on the battery. But if we are going to do a trip away, we go to 100%. The three-pin plug lead that plugs into a normal household socket adds about 15km of travel per hour of charge. The home charger adds about 50km per hour of charge. Thus we can do a full charge in nine hours at home if we need to. The public "DC" chargers add about 230km per hour, at a cost of about \$30. We are ready for a cup of tea after 230km! Normally you only "fast charge" like this to 80%. We have at times added the last 20% using the three-pin plug at a motel. These figures will roughly apply to all EV's.

I have to assume that the battery is deteriorating, though there is no sign of it. It is guaranteed for seven years; expected life perhaps 10 years. Recent research has found that EV batteries are actually lasting longer than expected.

We found that the wheel alignment had not been set properly, so the original tyres did not last too well. However, now that has been put right, the tyre wear seems about normal. It came with no spare, just



a repair kit, as do a lot of newer cars. This did not work very well for us; so I bought a standard used (Ford!) space saver wheel from Paeroa auto wreckers that fits both the car and the spare wheel well in the boot. They say in the handbook to just call your friendly Kia agent if you have a problem and they will come and deal to it. Yes, but not in the back blocks of NZ on a Sunday night, where there is no cell phone coverage!

Other than the usual insurance, rego, WOF's, tyres, and sooner or later road tax, the car has very little running costs. The odd bit of electricity, and that's about it. No oil changes, filters, general service charges, let alone a constant supply of "costly juice" to run it on. They would have us "send it in" and do a service, which costs about \$100 last time I asked. For that they connect their computer which will tell them of any logged problems, and the condition of the traction battery. If you are lucky they will pump up the tyres! And to their credit, Valley Toyota, the local agents, give every car that goes through their workshop a quick wash as well. I expect the brakes to see out the life of the car at the rate they are wearing presently. I just give our car a once over, checking fluid levels, etc., every 20,000km and that's it.

There is some concern that EV's catch fire. The insurance people tell us otherwise. Of every 100,000 cars some 150 petrol/diesel ones catch fire; but only 25 EV's (approx figures). The main difference is that when an EV burns, it makes headline news. Another interesting snippet: because of the high-voltage system, all EV's have to comply to a strict water-proofing standard. The standards go from 1 (drip proof) to 9 (submarines). EV's comply with level 8. An older Nissan Leaf went under some recent floods up to the door handles; the owner assumed it was a write-off. When I explained this, he went out and tried it; much to his surprise it just behaved normally, no problems! Then he had to start cleaning all the silt out of it!

Worldwide, the quest for cheaper, better EV batteries continues. I expect that it is only a matter of time before these come into use. Presently, the easily available lithium and cobalt are being used up; another reason for improved technology.

So would we buy another EV? Absolutely. We have a diesel camper van, and now try to avoid using it (apart from camping) from both environmental and cost perspectives. I really do recommend that anyone or any business considering buying a new vehicle check the EV market carefully. Some of the Chinese ones are getting very favourable reports and are near the same price as similar petrol models.

And remember that the now obvious and disastrous climate change can only be reduced by reducing carbon emissions.

*Note from Editor: On 16 January the government announced that exemption from road user charges (RUC) for owners of light electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrids will end from 1 April. So bear in mind that the costs Chris has quoted above for running an EV will increase.*

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## Patchwork & Quilters

By Sue Smith

### Quilting Tour in Japan

Judy Russell and I recently got back from a Quilting Tour in Japan with Michelle Marvig. Michelle is known for her design of fabrics, quilts and patchwork tours. It was quite a large tour group but a fun group of ladies who like to shop. We went to a number of different



craft museums, quilt shops and also managed to see shrines, temples and beautiful autumnal gardens. The highlight for Judy was to not only go to Yoko Saito's shop and gallery but to meet her in person too. Her hand-stitched and hand-quilted quilts are amazing. For me I would have to say seeing Mt Fuji was the highlight. We travelled on the bullet train out of the flat city of Tokyo and then suddenly the snowcapped Mt Fuji appeared. As you get closer it continues to amaze. I found myself already doing an autumn-coloured table runner with some Japanese fabric that was in my stash. I'm still admiring the fabrics I bought. Seem too beautiful to cut into yet.

Our next patchwork day is **Monday 5 February** and our AGM **Monday 19 February**. If you would like to join our group, we welcome new members.

We meet at the St John Ambulance Rooms on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Feel free to call in and see what we are up to.

Contact – President, Fiona Neal 027 373 6991 or Secretary, Sharon Currie 027 299 6695



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## Coromandel Embroidery Guild

By Win McMinn

As the year gets underway with our first meeting on **Wednesday 7 February** we are expecting great things for the coming year.

There are a range of workshops planned beginning with Funky Circles (see last month's Chronicle) and Colbert. Others planned include Ukrainian Whitework, Indigo Dyeing, Pattern Darning, Creating Nature's Textures and more. Of course we also have our monthly work stream which will not only stretch our imagination and abilities but will enable us to learn new ways of using the same stitch. Heather Constantine will be arranging this each month for us.

Later in the year is our biannual conference with exhibitions and workshops – to be held in Dunedin. We hope to have a good representation of pieces for the exhibitions.

If you are interested in joining us – and you don't have to be an expert, there is lots of help available – contact Helen whose details are below. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the St John rooms in Tiki Road at 10am, BYO lunch. Come and join us.

Contact person is Helen Pearce at coromandelembroidery1@gmail.com or phone (07) 866 8460



Some images from our last year's work

## Herm an' me at two fathoms

By John Irvine

A lovely wee reef fish I am, yes I am,  
in shades of aqua and gold.  
I never wear no gumboots  
an' me 'ead fins they tuck and fold.

Me bowels don't work really well y'know,  
but I really do not give a shit!  
Well, actually, I gives quite a lot  
an' it floats off from wherever I drops it!

Life down 'ere's hunky dory, eh Herm,  
not a single prob in our sight,  
nothin' down 'ere to pee us off 'cept that worm –  
that chubby, wooky, hooky ol' worm! Wanna bite?



## Coromandel Lions

By Mary Farmer



Hi everyone. Well, a new year has started. I hope it will be a great one for all of you locals and your families.

As a "pride" of Coromandel Lions we enjoyed a beautiful day for the Keltic Fair this year, with queues for our mussel fritters all morning and afternoon. Where did you all come from? We sold out by early afternoon and sadly had to turn people away. Thanks to all of the helpers who made the day a great success.

The crowds walking by were bright and colourful, and there was such a happy vibe. It just goes to show Coromandel can put on a great event for all the family – from food to car displays – something for everyone. A great team worked so hard to make the day run smoothly. Thank you and see you next year.

Great to see the big slide and tea cups. The big kid in me wanted to have a go. Maybe next time when no one's looking!

I have been asked by our president Paul Mackenzie to thank everyone of you for supporting our club, be it helping with our working bees, with the firewood, maintenance of chainsaws, and supplies. We would never be able to make the funds we do for the community if we didn't get this support, thank you so much.

Before I end for this issue, we are sad to see Noeleen Martin leave the club for pastures (almost) new in Waiheke Island, the draw of family is strong and she is returning to the island and her many friends there, so thank you Noeleen. We will miss you.

That's it for another month, stay well and happy, take care of yourselves and those close to you.

# new image

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## Coromandel Garden Circle

By Natalie Blasco

The December meeting was full-on!

Members dropped off their Secret Santa bottles and Foodbank donations as they checked in at the door. The sales table was quite full, with plants and Sheana's beautifully painted rocks, some with a Christmas theme. Kath was spending some time at the farm so Jeni kindly stood in as convenor.

We then started by enjoying our sumptuous lunch and chatting away, and took time to vote on the competitions. After lunch we did the business-y stuff (financials are good, apologies were announced).

Irene read a poem from the recipe book we produced many years ago... as if we needed a reminder about the excessive eating that occurs at this time of year!

We were then treated to some fabulous entertainment as Glenise, Sue Y, Tracy and Denise brilliantly performed an educational and



highly entertaining skit as honey bees whilst Irene – who is extraordinary in creating these performances – read us information about the lives of bees.

For example, during their six weeks of life, the worker honey bees, which are all female, visit 50-100 flowers during each trip from the hive and are crucial for pollination of many plants; bees have five eyes and see all colours plus ultraviolet; bees perform complex dances that identify where their nectar came from; bees in the hive fan their wings to evaporate the nectar and turn it into honey; New Zealand's huge agriculture industry means we are more dependent on honey bee pollination than most other countries. So, plant some flowers on your property to help feed the honey bees, native bees and bumble bees and do what you can to reduce your use of pesticides, such as neonicotinoids (neonics), or use ones that are bee-safe.

There was also a wonderful display of beehive paraphernalia courtesy of Kikowhakarere Bay beekeepers Evan Davies and Oksana Borowik, who produce Coromandel Honey with the cordial help of thousands of their closest friends. A creative, informative and fun presentation. Well done, Irene!

After competition winners were announced, the wild little bees again came in to entertain us as we drew for raffle prizes, which were exceptional this month. Also exceptional was having some of the raffle numbers spilled onto the floor by some overly enthusiastic bees!

Next came the distribution of Secret Santa bottles, opened once all were distributed. The busy bees were again called in to service. Irene read out member names, we were each asked a random question and the gift was lovingly presented by one of the bees. After singing a few Christmas songs, the meeting ended, and many members stayed on to enjoy a cuppa or drink from the bar and engage in more social therapy.

It was a great meeting, Irene's bees were incredible and unforgettable, and by the end the little bees were quite exhausted, though still in good spirits!

Our next meeting will be as follows:

**Wednesday 14 February**

Venue: Joan C's on Long Bay Road

Start time: 1pm; meet in Woollams Av carpark for carpooling

Activity: Garden Ramble in Coromandel before going to Joan's

Arrangement: Valentine's Day

Special: Make It Red

If you are interested in joining or being a speaker, please contact Kath Denize, Convenor, 022 413 6573 or Natalie Blasco, Secretary, (07) 866 7518

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## Animal Rescue Thames

By Alice and John Parris

Firstly thank mews to everyone who has supported us over the Christmas/New Year period. We had three cats come in over this period who stayed a month. Whilst well behaved, one was a total brat and went totally feral on us when it came time to get into cage to go home but we sorted that out and had to use a hand held net to get it in.

Cattery cats all are fine and just quietly cruising each day, Wally has grown to the extent here that he can go outside and that novelty for him is major. He is loving being outdoors to the extent that when it's time to come in, he is nowhere to be seen. Lizzy and Tutu are also enjoying the outside and being in the cool of the trees and bush, which for the cats is great fun and something they all enjoy. The summer heat can be incredibly hard on the animals so please ensure that all animals have lots of fresh clean drinking water available and not to leave any animal in any vehicle as they heat up so quickly and can be incredibly detrimental to that animal's health.

Rescue is really running on a fine line now and we are just caring for those in care right now till we can ascertain what our future for the unit will be for this year.

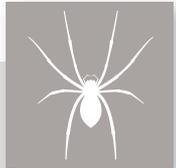
Wanted: cat food – tinned, salmon, sachets, sardines; pet milk, cat toys. Any financial blessings to Thames Animal Rescue Team 06 0457 0095150 01 with reference of where you would like us to spend the blessing.

Meow furr now.

Any enquiries to Thames Animal Rescue, ph (07) 868 2907 afternoons best

## Pestie Corner

By Amy English of Peninsula Pest Services



Spiders must be one of the most common pests we get calls about, although mainly due to their unsightly webs covering people's homes. This month however, I would like to focus on a non-web-making spider species: the infamous white-tailed spider. There are two species of white-tailed spiders in New Zealand (one on North Island and the other on South Island), although they both originate from Australia and look almost identical. They are easily identified by their dark grey, elongated body and distinctive white patch at the end of their abdomen. Adults will generally range between 1- 2.5cm in length.

These spiders are nocturnal and active hunters. Their preferred prey? Other spiders mainly! Preferably the grey house spider, but also sometimes their own species and some other insects as well. Their favoured habitat is outside under dry bark and rocks, but they can come into homes looking for prey, respite from hot weather in summer, or a warm, dry place to rest in winter. This is why you might find them in the folds of curtains, in discarded clothes on the floor or nestled in between your sheets. Anywhere dark and warm really.

So, if they eat other spiders and insects – why do we all detest them so much? Isn't that a good thing? Well yes, it is, but unfortunately we have all heard stories about nasty white-tail spider bites. This is somewhat of a misnomer. Yes, they do bite, but generally only when handled or provoked, which can happen accidentally when you find them hiding in your bedsheets or discarded clothes. Generally, a white-tail bite will only cause some minor pain and swelling around the site for a few days. In rare cases, some might have a larger reaction to the bite, or develop an infection that causes further issues.

The best thing you can do to minimise the likelihood of white-tails coming into your home is to take away their food source by getting rid of other spiders hanging out on and in your home. If this is something you need help with, please don't hesitate to give us a call.



White-tailed spider

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## Museum News

By Raewyn McKinney

It is fantastic to finally get some good summer weather, and wonderful to welcome holiday makers to the Coromandel area. To date, visitor numbers to the museum have been good, and the visitors' comments are all very positive about the museum. We hope the rest of the summer season continues the same way. Once the schools resume, we expect at least one more month of good weather for visitors to enjoy.

Here are some of the items making the news during February in days past:

From 'Auckland Star', 27 February 1871: "Coromandel.

[from our own correspondent.] February 25.

During the whole of this week the rain has poured down almost without intermission, and work at the mines and mills has been at a standstill. At the Whakaroa battery a large lot of stuff from the Tokatea will be crushed as soon as the weather permits. It is to be carted to the machine site, and a good return may be confidently expected. The rain has, of course, all but stopped public works, as well as private ones; and as yet the long-promised tramway has not been commenced. The opinion I expressed in a recent letter, as to the wisdom of experimentalising here, where a tram is so urgently needed, seems to be very generally entertained. The new plan may, or



may not, succeed, but why the authorities could not make this, our only tramway, in the ordinary way, and experimentalise at the Thames, or elsewhere, seems hard to say.

A whale paid a visit to Kikowhakarere harbour this week, and was captured by the natives, who expect to make a good thing of it, as they doubtless will do; and 'waipero' will be plentiful for a day or two in the neighbourhood.

Our new warden, Major Keddell, arrived on Wednesday, but has not yet taken his seat on the bench. It has been expected for the past fortnight that the superintendent would pay an official visit to Coromandel, but His Honor has not as yet made his appearance.

The Perseverance Battery, at the Tiki, which has been at a standstill lately, is, I hear, likely to resume working very shortly. This battery is a general convenience to all claims on or near

the Pukewau, and its permanent stoppage or removal elsewhere would have been a great loss to the district."

From 'New Zealand Herald', 25 February 1891:

"Boat accident at Coromandel.

A boy drowned. Another fatal boat accident took place on Sunday last at noon at Coromandel. Three young men, Alfred Chapman, William Melsop, and Henry Melsop, set out in

an open boat from Melville Bay, intending to go to Sandy Bay, near Port Charles. When close to Port Charles the boat was struck by a heavy sea and capsized. Chapman, being able to swim, succeeded in reaching the shore, though severely injured on the rocks. The brothers Melsop clung to the boat, the younger, Henry, a lad of 16, got washed off by the sea and drowned. One of the settlers, named Browland, observing the accident, went off in a boat and secured the elder Melsop, who was hanging on to the boat. Constable Donovan has been out searching for the body of the unfortunate youth who was drowned, but has been unsuccessful."

Don't forget that we will be holding our regular "Open Day" on **Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February**, when entry is free to everyone from 10am to 4pm.

During February the museum is open from 1pm to 4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and from 10am to 4pm on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays

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## CILT

We've moved!

CILT is pleased to announce that our services have officially moved into our new space – Te Pūtahi Whaiora, located at 150 Pound Street, Coromandel. Te Pūtahi will be open Monday to Friday from 9am till 3pm and can be contacted by phone on (07) 866 8358 during office hours.

### The Coromandel Foodbank and Budget Advisory

With all of these new changes happening, you will also see some at the Coromandel Foodbank as we slowly become more environmentally friendly by introducing our own reusing, reducing and recycling system. With this new plan, we will be buying products in bulk and have a setup similar to those seen at Bin Inn stores. From now on, we will be encouraging our clients to bring bags, containers, spray bottles and jars in order to do our part for the environment. If anyone has an excess of the items listed above, please bring them into the Coromandel Independent Living Trust where we will put them to good use!

Since October 2023, our budget team has been traveling to Colville once a month to help with any issues regarding WINZ and IRD or to provide other budget services. If you would like to make an appointment, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the amazing team at Colville Junction. We currently do not have the next date in Colville confirmed, but we are hoping to resume this fantastic service at the end of February!

### The Coromandel Community Van

The Coromandel Community Van is up and running, and ready for its first trip of the new year to Thames! Every Thursday the Community Van departs from Coromandel Town for Thames at 9am and then leaves from Pak 'n Save for the return to Coromandel at 2pm. Bookings are essential, so please contact us at (07) 866 8358 or pop into Te Pūtahi to reserve your seat!

Door-to-door pick-ups are available within Coromandel Town.

### First Aid Course

We have limited spaces available for First Aid Courses on **Thursday**



The new CILT office space, Te Pūtahi Whaiora

**14 and Friday 15 March.** If you would like to register your interest, please contact Fee via email at [healthandsafety@cilt.org.nz](mailto:healthandsafety@cilt.org.nz).

### Te Mana Tangata and Creative Spaces

Our awesome kaimahi Santana, Te Raana, Lizzie, Toni and Elisabeth would love to welcome new faces to spend some time at Te Whare Te Mana Tangata, the orange cottage at 100 Pound Street!

Te Mana Tangata and Creative Spaces are day programmes providing a safe space for people in our community to socialise and participate in interesting and new activities. Gardening, pottery, carving, weaving, cooking and carpentry are just some of the activities available, as well as regular trips to the beach and on walks. Te Mana Tangata runs Monday to Friday from 9am-3pm, with lunch provided. Creative Spaces runs Tuesday and Thursday 10am-2pm within the same space.

Nau Mai, Haere Mai – come and see if either of these programmes would be a good fit for you. Drop in any time or email [josie@cilt.org.nz](mailto:josie@cilt.org.nz) for more information.

### A welcome to our new CEO

CILT is delighted to welcome Sande Mareroa-Gates as our new CEO!

Sande brings a wealth of experience working in the health and social services sectors, along with her strong local links. We look forward to introducing her to our community.

CILT would also like to congratulate Josie Katene on becoming our new Service Teams Manager. This role will have her working closely with Sande and we are excited to see what amazing work they will do in the future. Congratulations Sande and Josie!

# Summer is Here

*The Star & Garter Hotel Presents:*

**New Years Eve 31 Dec – Dimension of Cool**

**Sat 13 Jan – Pow Wow**

**Sat 3 Feb – Sam & James**

**Sat 2 Mar – Bamboo Baby**

**Sat 6 Apr – Sam & James**

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**Car Club**

By Bruce Finan

Coromandel Car Fair – **Sunday 4 February** from 11am.

We had a BBQ meeting at Pieter’s Place, 3300 Tiki Road Coromandel on 10 January to test out our marquee, which is in good working order, and sorted out where everything is to be sited for the event

We have a great team of helpers organised, with a “Band on the Run”, maybe two bands, and Line Dancers all booked. An ice cream truck will be available on site. “Build a Burger” is again on offer plus mussel fritters. There will be a \$2 gold coin entry fee at the gate to help allay expenses.

We have confirmation that we will have some 60/70 visitors showing cars from out of town, so bring our local vehicles along and show the town what we can do!

This is only our second Car Fair event – last year the road to Whitianga was closed but we still had a successful day. This year is looking very positive for a huge event.



**RSA news**

By Gary Pettett

Christmas is over for another year and summer has arrived with the lovely weather that we have been waiting for. Hopefully this will be an improvement on last year’s non-event, but with the number of tourists and visitors already coming into town, things are looking up.

The Club has been humming with visitors and members’ families with over 40 people enjoying our Saturday social afternoons. Our raffles continue to please everyone, especially the winners of the Four Square prize. Membership continues to rise every week and the pool table is being dusted down and played upon again, both on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat and a social drink at the weekends, so check up on other social activities available at the Club.

Enjoy the summer season and do support our local businesses and attractions whilst you are visiting us.

**Coromandel Bowling Club**

By Judy Campbell

Firstly my apologies to Jason Dickison for incorrectly writing his surname name in as Donovan in the January issue of the Coromandel Town Chronicle and also to David Makiri whose surname name I misspelt as Makie.

Our club days started up again on Thursday 4 January followed by our Sunday rollup on the 7th. Unfortunately our Sunday rollup got rained off so the 16 members who came along to play settled on a cup of tea/coffee and a post Christmas/New Year catchup chat.

On 10 January we held our Open Triples Tournament sponsored by Twentymans Funeral Services. 13 teams entered, with four coming from Mercury Bay and the “Sponsor’s” team as well led by our own club member David Weatherley.

The weather was glorious and at times it was nice to get a bit of cloud cover to cool things down while playing four games of 1hr 20 minutes each.

The winners of the Twentymans Funeral Services Open Triples were a Coromandel Team comprising Lindsay Nicholls, Jason Dickison and John Westray. They were the only team with four wins overall, so well done.

Mercury Bay teams came in as runners up and also 3rd with another Coromandel team (Reg Wright, Rex Peters and Roger Gardiner) in hot pursuit at 4th.

Many thanks to the sponsors of this tournament, Twentymans Funeral Services, who sponsor not just this tournament at our Coromandel Club but also at every bowling club in the Thames Valley. Your support and that of all of our sponsors is very much appreciated.

A trolley used to cart the bottle bins out to the gate has gone missing from our enclosed yard. If anyone has borrowed it or happens to know where it might be, can they let us know or help get it back to the club? We would really appreciate its return, as it’s a lot of lugging bins of bottles by hand otherwise!

Twilight Bowls starts up again on **Tuesday 30 January** at 5pm with 32 teams playing overall. You are most welcome to come down to the club to watch the games and enjoy the social atmosphere.

On **Wednesday 7 February** we have our Open Optional Classic Fours Tournament sponsored by Tidewater Motel & Tourist Park, Coromandel, so that’s another great day of bowls we are all looking forward to.

Remember, our club is open Friday afternoons from 3-7pm so please come down and enjoy the friendly atmosphere with raffles thrown in for a bit of fun too.

Our club Match Convenor Colin Gawith also takes a coaching session followed by a couple of social games of bowls from 3pm and anyone is welcome to come down and partake in that. How about making 2024 the year you take up the challenge of lawn bowls?



The winners of the Twentymans Funeral Services Open Triples were a Coromandel Team comprising Lindsay Nicholls, Jason Dickison and John Westray



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### Taichi for health with Christina

Balance is one of the benefits taichi can bring. There are several elements involved: gravity, leg strength, the awareness of the pressure distribution on the soles of the feet, knees, ankles, arch alignment, centre of mass, range of motion through the body, vision and awareness of your surroundings.

Rooting is the practice in taichi to be connected to the ground, in martial arts as well as daily life. Song (relaxing) is the important condition for rooting. Once tension develops in the body, your root and the centre of mass also rise, and the chance of injury from falling may occur. Song results in the centre of gravity becoming lower, thus increasing stability.

Vision and balance are closely connected. According to Robert Chuckrow in his Taichi, Concept and Experiments, we tend to use hard vision which involves fixing our gaze on a small region. Soft vision involves relaxing the muscles of our eyes and processing the entire visual sense data. If we use soft vision when practicing taichi, we might find our balance better than when using hard vision.

Balance requires an awareness and sensitivity of the feet. When practising taichi, you have to be constantly aware of the placement and angle of each foot and its weight distribution. This awareness can be applied in daily life. The greater the awareness of signals coming from the feet, the earlier correct action can be taken to restore balance.

Christina's taichi class runs Tuesday at 5pm at the Waikato Events Centre (above the swimming pool). We have a bunch of lovely, spirited and committed people.

Christina, with over 20 years' practice and ongoing training from world renowned teacher Wee Kee Jin and with a true passion dedicated to this healing art, combined with her current practice of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, aims to help people improve their health and wellbeing.

If you are interested in joining the class, please contact Christina on 021 113 4768 or email christinawu121@gmail.com

### Coromandel Town Information Centre

By Carolyn

Great to see our town busy over January with many calling into our Info Centre to ask about local walks and beaches. Overseas visitors are arriving now, often in campervans, keen on experiencing a Kiwi summer full of walks, beaches and local attractions.

We say farewell this month to Lynne Fenwick. Lynne has been involved with our information centre for some years. Lynne's passion, support and work ethic has been exemplary.

Lynne has worked in the tourism industry for many years so it was a natural progression to become involved with our Info Centre once she moved permanently to Coromandel Town.

Lynne started coming here as an eight-year-old. Her family camped behind the Dalgety Store which today is Richardsons Real Estate. Lynne has wonderful memories of walking to Watt Street to collect milk, usually straight from the cow, taking turns each day with her brothers. She also remembers going to Long Bay to a really large rock, which was scary for an eight-year-old, jumping from the rock into the water, with her brothers who took no pity on their little sister.

Stories like these are memories to cherish, giving Lynne and her family an emotional connection to Coromandel Town.

We wish Lynne all the best in her retirement plus a well-deserved holiday with hubby Marsh visiting the South Island, which we are sure will include many information centres and a few rounds of golf.

Thank you, Lynne, from us all.



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## Library News

By Paul Lawrence

Isn't it wonderful to have had such nice weather and to see the town full of people? We have been fortunate in that visitors have been looking for something to read and have improved our coffers by a nice amount.

With school holidays upon us, the library has been busy with young ones. It gives a great vibe and everyone has enjoyed it.

I would like to thank the Coromandel Patchwork and Quilting Group for the Bookcase Quilt that the library now has. It has garnered a lot of positive comment and is an asset we can be proud of.

The car boot sale will commence again on **Saturday 3 February**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, either as a buyer or seller. The library really appreciates the income derived, providing funds for the purchase of new books.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year and, if we haven't already, we hope to see you in the library soon.

### *Thaw* by Dennis Glover

A fictional modern tale based on the true events of Robert Falcon Scott's failed expedition to the South Pole.

A glacial archaeologist is trying to find out the truth behind what caused the explorer's death, battling the unfathomable power of the natural world and dramatically changing weather.

### *The Raging Storm* by Ann Cleeves

Author Ann Cleeves, well-known author of *Vera* and *Shetland*, brings us a tale of Jem Rosco, a sailor and local legend who arrives in the town of Greystone, Devon.

When he disappears again no one thinks anything of it, until his body is found in a dinghy.

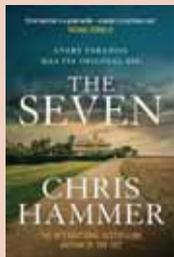
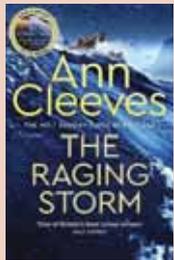
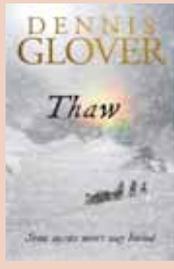
DI Matthew Venn must solve a case surrounded by myth and legend. So, what happens when another body is found?

### *The Seven* by Chris Hammer

Seven families from Yuwonderie, Australia have lauded over the district for a century. Now one of their number is found dead.

Does this murder have links to another 30 years before or even the story of a servant girl from the start of the first war?

Can Detectives Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan solve the case before anyone else dies?



## Real Estate Matters

By Glenn Wells. Licensed Agent.

**Q.** I like a property, but it is being sold by auction. Is it worth my while to look at it, if I am not in a cash position to buy?

**A.** Yes. If a property is on the market, no matter what process the sale is being run under, or your position as a buyer, if you like it and it's in your price range, then view it.

If you want to make an offer, ask for the offer to be written up and presented to the vendor (you should have your lawyer peruse prior to signing).

Regardless of if it is an auction process or priced or price on application, etc., have your offer presented. It is the vendor's choice as to whether or not they accept the offer. Some vendors selling by auction will, and can, accept conditional offers.

Nearly all auction process sales have "unless sold prior" for this reason. The vendors can sell to whomever, at whatever price they like. They can cancel the auction at any point, just as any vendor can change their process of sale at any point. They own the property.

With Mortgagee Sales or Assignee Sales (where the mortgagee or the government agency/court are the signatories), for the process of transparency, it is very unlikely to see the property sold prior to auction.

On the auction day or during the auction call, the vendor is seeking the highest price by nature of the process. But prior to the auction call, it is a case of whether or not the vendor feels it is worth risking rejecting the offer in order to proceed to the auction call.

It may take the vendor a day or so to think on and talk with their lawyer, etc. But ultimately it is their choice to accept or not.

Sale by auction is a process of sale, just as any other method of sale. Just maybe a little more structured or time controlled for purposes/circumstances of the vendor/seller. It would tend to indicate that the vendor is seeking a preference to a clean nonconditional sale, or maybe a more urgent sale. Or maybe they just prefer that process for transparency of process and result.

But ultimately you are entitled to have an offer written up and presented.

I would encourage you to have an offer written rather than just a verbal approach. Why? Well a written offer has much more presence/reality to the vendor than an obscure phone call.

In any process of sale, it is best practice to have your offer written, then have your lawyer peruse your paperwork, whether as the vendor or purchaser, and listen to the advice given. Then proceed.

If you have any questions on this or other real estate matters, contact the author.

Glenn Wells, Licensed Agent, glenn.wells@harcourts.co.nz, 0800 735 788



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Gorgeous Location and Views | Price by Negotiation  
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FOR SALE

## Coromandel 600 Buffalo Road

For Sale \$639,000  
View by appointment or at [www.harcourts.co.nz/CO4292](http://www.harcourts.co.nz/CO4292)  
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FOR SALE

## Kennedy Bay 4D Moana Crescent

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FOR SALE

## Coromandel 1580 Rings Road

For Sale \$349,000  
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Glenn Wells 027 598 4267



FOR SALE

## Colville Site 54/ Papa Aroha Holiday Park

For Sale \$155,000  
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FOR SALE

## Colville 85 Wharf Road

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## Ann's Good News, Naturally

### Cooking To Heal

Whether you cook for yourself or for those you love, it's important to prepare each meal with the intention to heal, and with calmness and appreciation for the benefits that healthy, nutritious foods can bring.



Eating specific foods with knowledge and intention, has the amazing power to build your immune system, in fact all of your body systems, to nourish your body and soul.

As you prepare your recipes, do so with an intention to heal. As you cook, your vibrations are always in your food. In earlier times, many spiritual teachers would choose their most spiritual elevated devotees to prepare food for them, knowing that only a well-balanced, centred person with a gentle humble soul has the power to create food with harmonious and positive energy.

The best kept secret to creating delicious meals is to prepare them with a heart of gratitude.

When you do, the food "feels" your energy and responds in a loving way. This is the true meaning of the saying, "food is medicine".

The effects that positive and negative energy have on water was studied by Japanese businessman, author and pseudoscientist Masaru Emoto. His research showed that water responds to the energy directed towards it. When beautiful music, pictures or words of love were shown or spoken to the water, it formed beautiful crystals after it was frozen. If angry, hateful words were directed

to the water, it formed ugly, distorted crystals.

Because food is made largely of water, it too responds to our emotions. Similarly, entering the kitchen to prepare a meal while holding the intention of love and gratitude for healthy foods, creates a meal that is much more delicious and nourishing.

Teach your children the value of gratitude, encourage them to savour each bite with deep appreciation, knowing that they are truly feeding their bodies what they need.

Research on the brain has shown that children remember habits, not our words, so start your children out with healthy habits. Create the practice of gathering around the kitchen where healthy food is being prepared and enjoyed. Thus, they will grow up remembering and hopefully recreate for their own children.

What type of "Eating Plan" does your family adhere to?

Are your foods the correct "balance", or "combinations" to correct and maintain health and healing?

Are you mindful to know how to eat to prevent and solve conditions like candida, viral infections, chronic fatigue, depression, weight problems, early ageing, autism, hormone imbalances and autoimmune diseases?

Are you satisfied that your choice of foods recreates the original process that nature uses to establish your perfect inner digestive tract's system for optimum function?

Disease and wellness starts in your

digestive tract. At least 70% of your immune system resides in your gut.

Over 100 years ago, Eli Metchnikoff noted that people who eat fermented foods live longer, healthier lives. The beneficial gut microbes help us digest our foods, strengthen our immunity so that we can conquer infection and much more. It is the key to health and longevity and is now well validated by scientific research as your microbiome.

### Morning Greens Smoothie – a perfect way to replenish your body in the morning

#### Ingredients

- 1 unpeeled and cored Granny Smith apple
- 4-5 stalks celery
- 3-4 large Romaine lettuce leaves
- ½ large Haas avocado peeled, destoned
- ½ bunch coriander, large stems removed
- 3-4 cups filtered water.

Optional – 1 tsp sauerkraut, juice ½ lemon or lime. ¼ tsp cayenne pepper, small piece ginger peeled, few mint leaves.

Directions – Puree ingredients in a blender. Add more water if required.

Know your cellular mineral status – [www.activeelemnts.com](http://www.activeelemnts.com). Username 259077, password 579819.

Live blood screening – seeing is believing!

Book now: Ann Kerr-Bell, Natural Medical Centre, "The natural alternative for all of your health requirements"



### Line Dancing

By Jeni Mudgway

Line dancing is going very well and, due to demand, a beginners' class has become possible. These will be every Monday and Thursday, 3-3.30pm, before our regular sessions.

Starting on **Monday 5 February**, Anglican Church hall, Tiki Road. \$5 per session. Everyone welcome.

Any queries phone 021 0227 5341

## Natural Medical Centre

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Coromandel.

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or email: [annk-b@ps.gen.nz](mailto:annk-b@ps.gen.nz)

[www.naturalmedicalcentre.co.nz](http://www.naturalmedicalcentre.co.nz)

### Ann Kerr-Bell

B. Hlth. Sc. (Comp. Med.)  
Adv. Dip. Naturopathy  
Adv. Dip. Med. Herb. MNZAMH

Naturopath  
Medical Herbalist  
Nutritionist  
Massage Therapist

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Email: [dynamictreecare@gmail.com](mailto:dynamictreecare@gmail.com)





**Hon Scott Simpson  
MP For Coromandel**

Matt Doocey and Scott Simpson

It's been great to see our towns packed with locals and visitors enjoying a well-deserved break on the Coromandel. Having State Highway 25A back up and running has made such a positive difference to the whole vibe of the entire Peninsula. There have been some delays due to traffic, but this hasn't dampened anyone's enthusiasm. And the best thing is, the summer is only just beginning.

Often when people ask me when the best time to come and visit the Coromandel, I usually say to come in February, March and April. The weather is more settled, you've still got daylight saving, and there aren't so many people. Hopefully, we'll continue to see a lot of visitors in the coming months who want to experience everything the Peninsula has to offer.

One disappointing issue is the continued closure of the walking track at Cathedral Cove. That track is managed by the Department of Conservation, but they've done little to re-establish foot access other than commissioning a couple of geotechnic reports. I don't think that's good enough and I've been pressing the issue with my colleagues, especially the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Tourism.

Credit to them, they've shown a real interest in the situation. It's been really beneficial to have both Tama Potaka and Matt Doocey visit the Cove and see things for themselves rather than relying on written reports from officials. We've been joined at the site by Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt, DOC officials, and representatives from Ngati Hei.

I have stressed the importance of this walking track to all involved and it was good for the Ministers to get a first-hand understanding of the situation. DOC now have to determine whether a quick fix is possible, and this needs to be balanced with what the site needs longer-term. Like many in our community, I want the track to reopen as soon as possible. So, we need a solution to achieve that and also one that addresses other issues, including parking and how to manage ablutions and litter.

It's not going to happen overnight, but I'm hopeful that there's momentum to re-establish foot access to Cathedral Cove sooner rather than later. This will restore its reputation as an iconic, must-see attraction and another reason to visit the Coromandel Peninsula.

Scott Simpson  
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime  
0800 550 330 • [scottsimpson.co.nz](http://scottsimpson.co.nz)  
[mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz)  
[f scottsimpsonmp](https://www.facebook.com/scottsimpsonmp)

Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

**Coromandel Contract Bridge Club**

By Judy Bronlund

2023 was a difficult year for our club due to low numbers compared to previous years. So a very big warm welcome to the newbies who are being introduced to the card game of bridge. I look forward to you joining us on club nights in the near future.

A reminder to our members that our year will start on **Monday 5 February**. Please let Jan know if you are able to come along. We meet at the St John rooms on a Monday evening. Visitors to town are welcome to join us. Please contact Jan before 3pm on the day. Lessons are being held, so please make contact if you would also like to learn to play bridge. Wishing you all a good bridge playing year.

Contacts Jan (07) 866 8341 or 027 478 8839, Jackie 921 061 6876, Judy 037 517 8306

**For the First Time**

By John Irvine



Into my world  
of darkness and silence  
you brought light and music.

When you lit my candle  
I began to see and understand  
the taste and texture of love

for the first time.

GIVE A LITTLE SUNDAYS

\$12 PIZZA  
SUNDAYS

\$1 from every pizza is donated to a local community service.  
This month:  
**Coromandel Youth Sail Club**

---

ALL DAY EVERY SUNDAY  
DINE IN ONLY

---

STAR & GARTER  
HOTEL  
Coromandel Town

CONDITIONS APPLY



## Mana

Kia ora Coromandel community,

Welcome to the new year, 2024. It is lovely to be back – we are excited to bring you a diverse and vibrant program for 2024.

We are holding a special Waitangi Relax and Wellness Weekend on **Friday 2 to Monday 5 February** with the option of staying either two or three nights. This is an all-inclusive weekend for those wanting to step away from the business of life and leave feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

Pippa returns this month with Open Floor Dance classes most Tuesday mornings 9.45-11.45am. Come and join our fabulous dance community and move with whatever is present: our creative minds, our tender hearts, our joys and excitements, our aches and pains. No experience required. Sliding scale of \$15-20. See schedule for dates.

We are excited to welcome back Master Sunyong for his day workshop Water Up, Fire Down on **Wednesday 14 February**. This is an opportunity to discover self-healing from physical, emotional or mental pain or trauma through the practices of Qi Gong and Ki Meditation. Price is \$105, including a delicious vegetarian lunch. Bookings can be made via our website [www.manaretreat.com](http://www.manaretreat.com) or (07) 866 8972.

An opportunity to join our wonderful team: We are seeking a bookkeeper to cover a period of maternity leave from May for approx 8-10 months. See classified ad on page 28 for more details.

We look forward to bringing you more community events this year, so stay tuned.

Wishing you all a wonderful start to the new year.

Arohanui, from the Mana team.



## Coromandel Community Garden

By Rachel Benmayor

Summer has really kicked in now and I guess many of us are experiencing a lot of growth and colour in our gardens. The community garden is coming along well but it so are the weeds, so it requires more weeding than usual. At the moment we have red, small-stemmed rhubarb which is fantastic stewed for dessert or with breakfast cereal. The courgettes are flowering and beginning to produce courgettes/zucchini now and although the tomatoes are slow in ripening, in a week or two they will be ready to harvest. The big plum tree at the back of the garden is laden with fruit but is still two weeks away from ripening. We have a virus in the old passionfruit vine and after this season it will need to be replaced. It has been there for over ten years so I guess it has really given years of fruit and shade over the pergola.

Recently we have had someone coming in and harvesting all the potatoes and pumpkins again. We ask folk not to take a full harvest and certainly if the vegetables are not ready. The pumpkins were not mature and don't make good cooking.

We have a very small team of volunteers who come in on Friday at 8.30am (early hours for summer due to it being too hot to work in the garden at midday) and we spend three hours gardening. Please feel free to join us at any time.

We are always looking for donations of seeds, seedlings, gardening tools and mulch, etc.

The Community Gardens are next to Hauraki House behind our very colourful and inviting gates.



### UPCOMING RETREATS

Book Online - [www.manaretreat.com](http://www.manaretreat.com)

<b>2- 5 FEB</b>	Waitangi Relax and Wellness Weekend
<b>9-11 FEB</b>	Repotted Retreat with Lisa O'Neill
<b>14 FEB</b>	Water Up, Fire down – A Self Love and Healing Full Day Workshop
<b>16-18 FEB</b>	Yummy Yoga Retreat
<b>23-28 FEB</b>	Spiraling In, Spiraling Out with Geordie Jahner
<b>1-3 MAR</b>	March Relax and Wellness Weekend with the Mana Team
<b>7-11 MAR</b>	Reiki Retreat with Uli Brell
<b>14-17 MAR</b>	3 Day Silent Meditation Retreat with Amrit & Yogamurti Saraswati
<b>20-25 MAR</b>	Goddess Retreat - I Shine My Radiant Light
<b>26-28 MAR</b>	Medical Mindfulness
<b>29 MAR- 1 APRIL</b>	Coming Home To Yourself Retreat

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

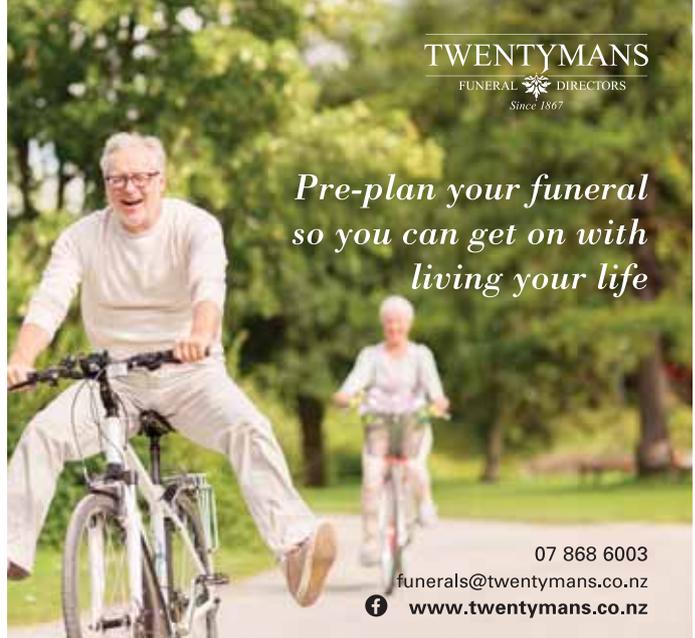
Open Floor Dance - 6.13.20 FEB | 5.12.19 MARCH



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# Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



## Welcome link to Thames for Coromandel Town

The free Connector bus service running between Thames and Coromandel Town has provided a welcome connection to Thames for local residents.

The service runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and is on trial until mid-March. Bookings are essential.

Please include your name, the service time and the town you are being picked up from.

The Coromandel Town stop is at Woollams Avenue carpark, and for Thames, you can jump on board at Mary Street, outside the Civic Centre.



### COROMANDEL TOWN to THAMES Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Coromandel Town	Thames	To book
8.00am	9.30am	Text Coromandel Taxis 027 376 4466
4.45pm	6.15pm	Text Thames Taxis 027 341 3013

### THAMES to COROMANDEL TOWN Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Thames	Coromandel Town	To book
10.00am	11.30am	Text Coromandel Taxis 027 376 4466
3.00pm	4.30pm	Text Thames Taxis 027 341 3013

[tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltransport](http://tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltransport)

Our Council offices, district libraries and Thames Pool will be closed  
**Anniversary Day Monday 29 January and Waitangi Day Tuesday 6 February.**

Customers can still contact us over this period 24/7 on  
**07 868 0200** or email –  
[customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz)  
[tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo](http://tcdc.govt.nz/summerinfo)

Coromandel - Colville Community Board  
**UPDATE**

A word from our Board

#### Chair Gavin Jeffcoat

"It's been good to see how busy the district has been with the fantastic weather we had over the Christmas and New Year period. We've seen the visitor numbers up with people returning to the district, and a strong turnout at the Keltic Fair last month. We've also had an awesome addition to our local transport options with the free Connector service between Coromandel Town and Thames. It's on trial until 18 March so make sure you get behind this new initiative. A gentle reminder to use water carefully over this busy period, especially with the increase in visitor numbers. We've also had a few fatalities on the roads these holidays, so please drive carefully as you navigate our winding roads. If you're driving the loop, come and see us in Coromandel-Colville. We have some fantastic tours and attractions to enjoy in our beautiful neck of the woods."

[gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

**The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday 27 February 2024, at 9am, 355 Kapanga Road. You can find agendas at [tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes](http://tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes)**



**PEAK SUMMER KERBSIDE COLLECTION**

Our additional summer kerbside services in place for the east coast, Coromandel Town & Te Kōuma, and Coromandel Rural North, will end on 9 February. Collections will still be taking place on Auckland Anniversary Weekend, Monday 29 January, as well as Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February. Your collection days will remain the same for the rest of those weeks.  
[tcdc.govt.nz/summerkerbside](http://tcdc.govt.nz/summerkerbside)



## LTP GEARS UP FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Our Council is on track to have our proposals for the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) ready for public feedback in March.

In particular, we've prioritised the resilience of our district. We've taken another look at some of our services, budgets and who pays for these, to ensure they are fit for purpose.

There's some tough decisions to make and we'll be needing your help to make them. We'll have more information on the feedback process closer to the time.

Keep an eye on our website at [tcdc.govt.nz/LTP-2024-2034](http://tcdc.govt.nz/LTP-2024-2034)

## SAVE WATER NOW

Reducing our need for water restrictions over our longest, driest months starts now.

[tcdc.govt.nz/savewater](http://tcdc.govt.nz/savewater)

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Private Bag, 515 Mackay St, Thames  
Phone: 07 868 0200

# rangatahi OUR CHILDREN

## Coromandel Area School

By Jamie Brown

### Welcome

Welcome back everyone! As we start the year, we would like to give a big warm welcome to our new staff, students and whānau. The teachers have been working hard to organise exciting learning programmes for this year. We hope you have all had a relaxing holiday and are ready for 2024!

All 2024 stationery lists and information can be found on our website [www.coroarea.school.nz](http://www.coroarea.school.nz).

### Term One

Teacher only days – **Wednesday 24, Thursday 25, Friday 26**

**January.** Office will be open these days for new enrolments.

**Friday 26 January** – Senior course selection (if this needs to be done).

First day Term 1, 2024 – **Tuesday 30 January**

School closed **Monday 5 February** (day before Waitangi Day)

School resumes – **Wednesday 7 February.**

### Communication

We endeavour to communicate as effectively and efficiently as possible in regard to all school matters. Please ensure you read all notices, notes home and check the website and Educa regularly to keep up-to-date with any information you may need to know. Please also check our official Facebook page. The name of the page is Coromandel Area School, so please “like” and “follow” us on the page to get instant and up-to-date information, photographs, and updates on school achievements.

Bring on Term 1!

### Term dates 2024

Term 2 – **Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July**

Term 3 – **Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September**

Term 4 – **Monday 14 October- Friday 13 December**

## COROMANDEL AREA SCHOOL



## Colville Bay Preschool Te koohungahunga o te Uumangawhaa o Ngaa Waka

COLVILLE BAY  
PRE-SCHOOL



By Esther Powell

*Ka whāngai, ka tupu, ka puāwai/ To nurture, to grow, to blossom.*  
Kia ora,

We are open from **Tuesday 23 January** this year, so back in full swing by the time you read this. What a beautiful warm summer we've had, enjoying the ocean and bush at home on te Tara-o-te-ika-a-Māui.

We have spaces for children ages six months to six years old available at our whare ako this year as we farewell our five-year-olds heading off to school. We have a rich and varied curriculum including our Bush Kura programme, kapa haka, creative community workshops and a dedicated team of highly experienced and talented kaiako.

Open Tuesday to Friday 8.45am to 3pm .

Transport available for 3-6-year-olds from Coromandel to Colville – return three days/ week. 20 hours Free ECE for three-year-olds+. The new Government has reversed the Budget 2023 initiative to extend 20 hours ECE to two-year-olds, so fees still apply for 0-3-year-olds. WINZ subsidies available.

Keen to be an early childhood teacher? We can help you find a course that would suit you and support you on your journey. More information at this link: <https://teachingcouncil.nz/professional-practice/ite-providers/approved-ite-programmes/>.

Our centre is charity-registered, community-owned and licensed under the Ministry of Education for up to 20 children. If you would like to make a donation, here are the bank details: Colville Bay Preschool Inc: 38-9005-0803508-02.

For activities for children free downloads are available at: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/sites/default/files/a5-te-reo-maori-activity-book>.

Colville Bay Preschool, 2391 Colville Bay Road, Ph: 022 645 3272,  
Email: [seniorteacher@colvillebaypreschool.co.nz](mailto:seniorteacher@colvillebaypreschool.co.nz),  
[www.colvillebaypreschool.co.nz](http://www.colvillebaypreschool.co.nz)

## Coromandel Youth Group at Hauraki House

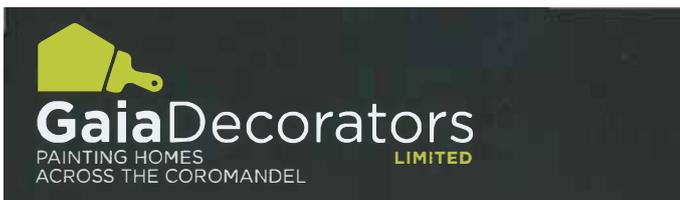
After school: Activities and Play – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday for 5yrs+ 3-5pm.

Adventure Time: Outdoor Activities Group 10yrs+, Monday 3pm-5pm.

Tabletop Miniature Games: 10yrs+ Wednesday 3-5pm.

For more info please contact us during open hours: phone (07) 866 7061, drop in at Hauraki House or email [coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.com)

This programme is made possible with kind donations received and grants from: Lottery Waikato, COGS, Trust Waikato, D V Bryant Trust & Star & Garter's Give a Little Pizza Sundays. Thank you!



**Mark Gaia** 021 295 5532 | 07 866 8157  
COROMANDEL | [gaiadecorators@gmail.com](mailto:gaiadecorators@gmail.com)  
[www.gaiadecorators.co.nz](http://www.gaiadecorators.co.nz)

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## Coromandel Community Preschool

By Joss James



Kia ora. We hope everyone had a well-earned rest over the Christmas and New Year break. The children are excited to be back and see their friends after their holiday.

In December, we finally had our much overdue visit from the Education Review Office with lots of positive feedback and only a few things to work on. We are awaiting their draft report, hopefully in February.

We ran some raffles just before Christmas with items donated by local businesses' staff, and the parents of the children within the centre. They were positively received, and I would like to thank everyone for their support with these. We also ran a cake stall, so thanks for all the yummy baking that was provided, and to those who purchased items.

Raffle results: Ham – Ticket Number 68 – Rainy Chick; Christmas hamper – Ticket Number 47 – Debra Attwood; Fishing – Ticket Number 52 – Keith; Gift Basket – Ticket Number 34 – Melody Penton.

Also, in December, we held our Children's Christmas Party at Tuck's Bay. It was a lovely sunny afternoon with everyone enjoying the water and the sausages, which were kindly donated by Four Square and cooked on the ITM barbeque. But the highlight was Santa coming. Des found Santa at Long Bay and brought him over on his tractor so the reindeer could have a rest. Thanks, Des and Santa.

Overall, it was a very busy December for us all.

With the current hot weather, it is a good time to remind everyone about being safe by wearing brim hats and covering up our shoulders, and not forgetting to slip, slop and slap.

Over the last month, we have had some children leave us, sadly, as they move away or go to school, so all the best to River, Finn, Layla, Mason, Nicholas and Freddie on your next journey.

We would also like to wish Finn, Layla, Mason, Freddie, Cian, Nicolas, River, Rakairoa, and Tommy a happy birthday.

With regret we say goodbye to one of our teachers, Brooke. She has decided to take on a new challenge and leave us after many

years. So thanks, Brooke, for your hard work and dedication over the years and we wish you all the best in your next adventure.

This means we have a position open for a Fully Qualified Permanent ECE Teacher. If this could be you, please give Debra a call at the centre.

We currently have no spaces available, but if you are looking for a quality early childhood centre for your child to grow and learn in a caring environment with dedicated teachers and you feel that this could be the right place for you and your child to begin their lifelong journey of learning, you can put your child's name on the waiting list. Check out our latest Education review on the website: <http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/coromandel-community-preschool-25-05-2018/>.

The centre operates Monday to Friday 8am-4pm. We are situated at 155 Pottery Lane. If interested call in for a visit or phone us on (07) 866 7570.

### Our centre whakatauki

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4

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# mahi toi ARTS

## Get on-board for show by four

By Darren Risby

A retrospective of work by a man considered as “New Zealand’s best railway artist” by his friend Barry Brickell is going on show in Coromandel along with pieces by three locals.

Painter and printmaker Gary Tricker is well-known here and overseas for his eclectic, whimsical and witty style. His pieces often featured trains, black cats and quotes from literature about our landscape.

A selection of his work will be exhibited alongside that of Coromandel painters Elisabeth Carter and Julie Dann, and potter Murray Rainey, at Hauraki House Gallery from **Thursday 15 to Sunday 25 February** from 10am-4pm daily. Entry is free.

Gary, who died in 2021 aged 82, donated almost 500



Artwork by Gary Tricker

of his artworks to Waikato Museum. His work is also held at Te Papa in Wellington and the Govett-Brewster in New Plymouth.

Sometime after his passing, Tricker Art Company was established, of which his niece Carol Sutherland is director. Carol, who has lived in Coromandel for 25 years, maintains and distributes Gary’s remaining works, with profits going to charities he supported in life.



Artwork by Elisabeth Carter

Also taking part in the Hauraki House show is Elisabeth Carter, of Rings Road. “Creating has always been essential to me,” she says. “Painting is my primary outlet, although I enjoy working in other mediums.

“My work is highly emotive, often with many layers and texture. I still marvel at how my emotions can be reflected in my



Artwork by Murray Rainey

paintings, consciously or unconsciously.”

Potter Murray Rainey, who lives at Wyuna Bay, believes art is about expressive intent. “When at a pottery wheel, I feel part of me is imbedded into the piece. Whether it’s a single piece or a repeat form, it still carries on.

“A lot of my art is functional, so typically has a use. The satisfaction of the work as it is finished is enormous.”

Julie Dann, of Studio 531 at Preeces Point, loves being free to paint – mainly in acrylics – after years in a busy career.



Artwork by Julie Dann

“Some days are better than others, but the buzz I get from painting when it suddenly works is worth all the clumsy missteps,” she says. “I’m finding my own unique style and developing.”

As for Gary, he was a self-taught artist who twice won the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council Award. This enabled him to spend time perfecting his techniques and travel to meet other artists such as Frank Williams.

His works featured at exhibitions around the world and he attended them when suitable arrangements for his black cats were in place. Gary referred to them as his muses.

Anita Robertson, Waikato Museum’s collections and curatorial manager, describes Gary as “one of Aotearoa’s most gifted” screen-print artists.

“With a deep imagination and a love of the whimsical, Tricker’s dreamlike observations of cats, trains, landscapes and people brighten the real world with brilliant surrealism,” she observes.

## Coromandel Art Sale!

Calling all past, present and future artists. There will be an Art Sale at the Hauraki House Gallery from **Saturday 2 to Sunday 10 March** and we are looking for artists to participate. This sale is open to all artists... past artists who may have old work to clear out, current artists who may want to make room in the studio, and aspiring artists who would like to test the waters with their creations. There is a maximum price of \$250 per work so buyers have the opportunity to score a real bargain! Each artist may submit up to five pieces (or more if they are small). For further information or to request an application form, please contact Charlene at charlenescottartist@gmail.com or 022 695 9736. Applications close **Tuesday 13 February**.

## Coromandel Art Group

By Wendy Moore

Hi everyone. Our yearly exhibition is now on at Hauraki House, so if you haven’t been to check out our work, don’t miss out! We are open from 10am to 4pm every day until **Sunday 11 February**. You never know what treasures you might find.

As well as paintings there is a pottery display for you to enjoy. Cards and prints of the artists’ work will be on sale as well as two joint paintings done by the group over the last two years. These are panoramas of Coromandel Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf.

As a new start to the year, the group is moving to different premises in February, and anyone interested in joining the group can get details from us at the exhibition, or contact Lindsay on (07) 866 7799

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## Pastel Artists Coromandel

By Rosemarie Murphy

Pastel Artists Coromandel have taken a break for the Christmas, New Year period but will start up again on **31 January** at 860 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town.

We got together for a Christmas morning tea at Rose's house. We all had a lovely morning with everyone bringing some scrumptious food. There was no need for lunch that day.

The Coromandel members will be joining with the Waikato members of our national body, Pastel Artists of New Zealand, to help organise the Annual National Convention and Exhibition which will be held in Morrinsville in March.

The Purely Pastel National Exhibition will held in the Morrinsville Community Gallery with all of the best

pastelists in the country competing for the Supreme Prize. It runs from **Friday 22 March until Sunday 28 April**. It will be well worth a visit.

Pastel Artists Coromandel are hosting a workshop with Maxine Thompson, a well-known New Zealand master pastel artist, as tutor. **Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 February** are the dates to mark in your diary and cost to attend is \$150 per person. Contact Rosemarie [rmurph@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmurph@actrix.co.nz) for more information.

If you are interested in trying pastel art, we meet every Wednesday 9am to 12.00noon at 860 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town. You will be most welcome.

Contact Allan Beaver  
Ph (07) 866 8053,  
Saskia Riemersma  
Ph 027 296 1670



## Coromandel Players

By Don Hughes

Best wishes to all of our supporters for a healthy and happy 2024. A brief note about our plans for the first part of the year. We will be restaging the pantomime "Santa in Space" in early to mid June. A pure fun piece, with colourful costumes and set and involving at least a dozen young people. I hope to bring news of rehearsals starting early March.

If you are interested in taking part, or helping in any way, please contact Liz Cameron (027 494 1188) or myself at (027 669 3585). We are, in fact, especially looking for a man prepared to take on a lead part and also prepared to appear in outrageous "drag". It is certainly a great fun part. Sound like you, or someone you know?

## George Jackson and Brad Kolodner – Bluegrass Duo

By Robin Münch

Come and enjoy this internationally acclaimed duo who hail from the heart of American bluegrass country.



New Zealand-born, Nashville-based fiddler George Jackson and Baltimore-based American banjoist Brad Kolodner met years ago in a late-night jam session at the hallowed Appalachian String Band Music Festival in West Virginia and have since formed a musical bond that runs deep, across continents and through a number of recorded projects. From the moment the fiddle bow hits the strings, and the fingers grasp the fretboard, George and Brad are locked in, weaving their way through ancient melodies made new again. From trance-inducing moody original tunes to classic barnburners, their show has something for serious or casual folk music fans alike. They play with a mischievous curiosity that keeps listeners on the edge of their seats wondering where they'll go next.

Traveling has been a way of life for George, who was born to musician parents in Christchurch. He spent the better part of his childhood living and touring around in a house bus with his family band "Fiddlesticks". Moving to Australia as a teen he performed across the country in bluegrass bands and won the Australian National Bluegrass Fiddle Championship three times. An avid student of American fiddle styles, Jackson eventually made his way to Nashville, TN, where he now lives and works.

Growing up in a musical family, banjo-picking Brad was exposed to folk music from birth. His father Ken Kolodner is a renowned hammered dulcimer player and fiddler who toured for many years in the folk trio Helicon. When Brad picked up the banjo as a teen, everything started to click into place. Since then, he's charted a path centred on performing, recording, broadcasting and community organizing. He's an acclaimed clawhammer banjo player who performs with the chart-topping Irish, old-time, bluegrass fusion quartet Charm City Junction. He's recorded four albums of old-time and original music with his father Ken under the name Ken & Brad Kolodner.

**Thursday 22 February** 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm), at Hauraki House Theatre, Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town.

\$25 tickets available at Coromandel Town Information Centre, ph (07) 866 8598, email [info@coromandeltown.nz](mailto:info@coromandeltown.nz).

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# te taiao ENVIRONMENT

## MEG

By Genevieve Morley

### A little bit about possums

As part of the

Summer Holiday Programme that ran in January, MEG hosted Richard Johnson, a conservation dog ranger who travels out to predator-free islands with his detection dog Flint to locate the presence of a stowaway rat incursion on the island. It was fascinating learning about how scent works and how the best time to detect a scent is in the morning or in the evening as the sun, as well as water, will make it harder to find, and that scent travels in a cone-like shape. Interestingly, one of Richard's pearls of knowledge that really stuck is what a pōhutukawa tree is actually meant to look like. He said it wasn't until he travelled to offshore predator-free islands that he saw what a pōhutukawa tree is supposed to look like, full of fresh growth with incredibly thick foliage, not like the endlessly possum-pruned versions seen on the mainland. Possums were first introduced into Aotearoa in 1837 and were allowed to be brought to NZ until 1921. By 1946, they were officially declared a pest, and by 1950, they inhabited over 50% of Aotearoa. By 1980, it was estimated that their population was between 50-70 million, with trappers exporting 3.2 million pelts in the year 1981. By 1990, they had officially arrived on the Coromandel Peninsula. We used to have kakariki here in the hills of the Coromandel Peninsula. It's interesting to imagine what the peninsula would look like without the presence of possums.



Richard Johnson presenting at Waikawau Beach with his dog Flint

At the Driving Creek Festival last year, Andrew Veale (Manaaki Whenua) presented his research into genetic inbreeding in possums to measure population density. He discovered that rivers are barriers to possum dispersal. Whereas stoats can easily cover mountain ranges and swim, possums use bridges and generally don't like getting their feet wet. There is more inbreeding of possums in grassland areas compared to forested hills, and Dr Veale's research found that possums travelling further than four kilometres is extremely rare.

### Summer Holiday Programme

With such beautiful weather conditions in January, the activities created and put on by MEG volunteers really left a lasting impression on holidaymakers and visitors to the area, particularly the Kiwi Night



Doug and Jane Ashby presenting on gecko at MEG's Conservation Installation at Hauraki House as part of the Summer Holiday Programme

Adventure in Port Charles which, on one tour, 28 people attended and, of course, Doug and Jane Ashby's amazing gecko presentation. We want to thank all of the volunteers and sponsors who participated and contributed to making the Summer Holiday Programme "the best yet" and thank Emma Evangeline Gustafson, whose beautiful art lit up the Hauraki House Conservation Installation as well as the booklets! It takes a community effort to protect our treasured species, and the work hasn't been done yet!

### Upcoming this February

To make the most of the good weather, we are looking to organise some more ginger bashes, and volunteers in Port Charles are still working on weed control. We will also start to distribute the traps for the Pāteke Hot Spot Project and continue to chip away at all of our other projects!

Become a member of MEG and help make a difference. For more information, please visit our website, [www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)

## Forest & Bird Upper Coromandel

By Nicholas Conland

### A Special Encounter

Naumai haere mai 2024 – a leap year and the best summer since the last good one in 2019/20.

With the Peninsula crowded, our local branch is delighted to see so many people enjoying the roadside reserve areas we have planted over the last two years with the trees at Torehina, Waitete looking healthy above the kikuyu.

The summer months are also a time to look out for one of our rarest birds – the matuku or bittern, recently observed rising like a huge speckled heron above the wetland next to Wharf Road in Colville. Māori identified the matuku with loneliness and sorrow, and that hearing its call could help people express their grief. This ancient tohu or sign living next to the Colville cemetery is an amazing connection between our environment and community.

The matuku is a large wetland bird, with plumage similar to the harrier hawk or kahu. While we share the matuku with our Australian neighbours, it is now endangered in both countries.

If you're lucky you might hear its resonant "boom" as it calls for a mate from its hideaway in our coastal wetlands. The call is loud, deep and haunting, and each call is like a fingerprint, unique to its owner. These birds rely on the foghorn force of their call to let any other male birds in the area know exactly what they could be dealing



with, should they decide to make a play for the territory.

While bird numbers have dropped drastically through the last 50 years, we have reason to be hopeful that the special coastal wetlands around the Coromandel Peninsula (Colville, Waikawau, Kennedy Bay, Manaia and Whangapoua) are providing breeding habitat for these rare birds.

The matuku is a great indicator for ecosystem condition; to support such a large bird you need a healthy supply of eels, native swamp fishes, invertebrates and small bird chicks. Of course, it could also indicate an increase in mice or rats, but let's hope for frogs, fishes and invertebrates! So far, it seems that our local population love to predate on the small fish that populate our wetland areas, but they also eat insects, spiders, lizards, freshwater crayfish and molluscs.

Happy bird spotting and remember to keep your dogs on a leash around beaches with nesting birds – especially the dotterels, which will be raising chicks this month.



Photo courtesy of Moehau Environment Group (Trail Cam)

### Driving Creek Conservation Park

By Saskia Wagner



#### A new Guardian of Nature joins conservation team

Last year we welcomed a new member to our conservation team. Jasmine, an enthusiastic conservationist, joined the team as a volunteer. This gave her the opportunity to learn more about what we do at Driving Creek Conservation Park before committing to work here.

Jasmine has thrived at Driving Creek Conservation Park. She has shown dedication and drive to work hard for the ongoing conservation efforts of Driving Creek.

We are now pleased to have employed Jasmine as our newest conservation team member. Her great field skills and passion for preserving biodiversity align perfectly with our mission to protect our native species and with the wishes of Barry Brickell to restore a thriving ecosystem across the Driving Creek property.

Jasmine's role includes helping to care for our (captive) native geckos, trapping rats and mustelids across our property and on adjoining Public Conservation Land, removing environmental weeds and many more field-based tasks. These responsibilities are integral to our overarching goals, which encompass habitat restoration, wildlife protection, and community engagement to promote environmental awareness and practices.



## hākinakina SPORT

### Coromandel Croquet Club

By Raewyn McKinney



What could be better than to spend a morning out in the fresh air, enjoying the good weather in beautiful peaceful surroundings, with like-minded congenial companions. This is what Coromandel's croquet players enjoy all summer long.

If you are interested in learning about croquet, then call Lyn on 027 466 2661 for more information.



We meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9.15am and provide all of the equipment and a six-week period of coaching before you need to commit to joining the club.

The club is situated in Woollams Ave next to the Bowling Club.

### Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club

Our ladies' fishing tournament "Classy Chicks" is on **Saturday 2 March**. This competition has been running for over 20 years.

Major prize: Average Weight Snapper \$2000 worth of travel prizes. Also prize for Best Dressed Team – Theme is something starting with the letter "H", spot prizes and skipper prizes. Categories are: Mystery Weight Snapper, Heaviest Snapper 1st, 2nd, 3rd; Heaviest Kingfish, Trevally, Kahawai, John Dory.

Fishing zone is Firth of Thames to Fletcher Bay (all club by-laws and MPI rules apply).

Entry is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Entrants must be 15 years of age or over. If postponed the date will be **Saturday 9 March**.

Email: [coromandelfishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:coromandelfishingclub@gmail.com),  
Facebook: Coro Recreational Fishing Club Group page

### Coromandel Golf Club

By Marilyn MacKenzie, Secretary



January saw our first tournament for the 2024 season kick off with the Coromandel Hotel Mixed Open, AKA The Top Pub. Big shout out from members and visitors to Stan for his amazing generosity sponsoring this tournament annually, always a tournament not to be missed. While the weather didn't play ball it certainly didn't dampen players' enthusiasm at hole 19. Thank you to everyone involved in making the day so successful.

February has a lot going on at the golf course.

**Saturday 3 February** – Opening Day – Bob Riley Trophy Mixed Bogey. Tee off 12.30pm. Course closed.

**Tuesday 6 February** – Ladies' Opening Day. Visitors' Day. Please come along, even if you have never played golf before. We would love to see new ladies on the course. No clubs? Don't worry, we have some at the club

house to get you started. Past golf ladies: let's get you back on the course and enjoying the game of golf like never before. Ladies' Day isn't just about golf, it's about exercise and an opportunity to socialise in a fun, friendly environment.

**Saturday 10 February** – Surf 'n' Turf Mixed Open, 10.30am tee off. Entry fee just \$30 includes a BBQ at completion of competition. Open to all golfers with a current handicap. Course closed.

Tuesdays – Ladies' Club Day 9.30am tee off

Wednesdays – Men's Midweek Club Day 12.30pm tee off

Saturdays – Members' Club Day 12.30pm tee off

Sundays – Morning Tee **Sunday 11 January to Sunday 18 February**. 9-hole stableford. 8.30am tee off, everyone welcome, including non-affiliated.

Affiliated visitors welcomed to all club days.

For more information phone 027 253 7882 or email: [coromandelgolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:coromandelgolfclub@gmail.com)

### Himalaya shop : Colville

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In February month we hope to be open daily until after Waitangi weekend. After that we might be closed on a weekday now and then. if you are thinking of coming up , best to phone or text first.

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# Coromandel Town weekly and monthly meetings

## Every Day

Free meditation at Mahamudra (except during silent retreats)..... 8.30-9am

## Every Monday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym.....8am

Coromandel Hikers' Group, Hauraki House, Colin & Elspeth (07) 866 7137 .....9am

Monday Walkers, Woollams Ave car park north end, Irene 021 157 8408.....9am

Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am

Line dancing beginners class, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 ..... 3-3.30pm

Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341... 3.30-4.15pm

Coro Superstars, a Performing Arts group for 6-13-yr-olds, Anglican Hall, contact Claire 021 653 650..... 5pm

Bridge, St John rooms..... 7pm

Taizé 4-part harmony singing, Sally 027 302 4245..... 7.30pm

## Every Tuesday

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 2661.....9.15am

Coro Walking Group, meet outside The Bizarre, Ruth 027 338 3545 .....9am

Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$2 Vickie 027 417 7077..... 10am

Yoga for everyone, Colville Hall, Kate 021 125 3152 ..... 10am

Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 10.30am-1pm

Na Ihowa Ahau after-school kids club (term time only), Anglican Hall, Anita 027 259 1085..... 3.15-4.45pm

Tai Chi, Waikato Events Centre (above the swimming pool), Christina 021 113 4768 ..... 5pm

## Every Wednesday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym.....8am

Meditation at Mahamudra..... 8.15-8.45am

Pastel Artists Coromandel, Rose's Studio, contact Allan (07) 866 8053..... 9am-12pm

Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am

Ballet Class For Adults, Coromandel Citizens' Hall, \$10 per class. Marilyn 027 336 5263..... 10-11am

Coromandel Home-school group, Julene 020 4060 8102 ..... 12.30pm

## Every Thursday

Coro Walking Group, meet outside The Bizarre, Ruth 027 338 3545 .....9am

Coro Art Group, Coro Flying Club, Lindsay (07) 866 7799..... 9am-12pm

Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$2 Vickie 027 417 7077..... 10am

Free Guided Meditation, Havalona Pyramid ..... 10-11am

Movement for Equanimity (MFE), a well-being fascia movement class, contact Judy 021 0200 7550 ..... 3-4pm

Line dancing beginners class, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 ..... 3-3.30pm

Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 .. 3.30-4.15pm

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" ..... 4.30pm

Yin Yoga with Toni, at the Pyramid, \$10-\$20, Toni 020 4076 1526 .. 5.30-6.45pm

Recova 12-step addiction recovery meeting, 100 Pound St (orange house), Liz 027 436 2800 ..... 6-7pm

Free drop-in Dharma talk or video at Mahamudra ..... 7-8.30pm

## Every Friday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym.....8am

Coromandel Homegrown Market, Wharf Rd (summer only)..... 8.30am-12.30pm

Community Gardens volunteer day..... 9-12am

Yoga for everyone, Anglican Hall, Kate 021 125 3152.....9am

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 2661.....9.15am

Chess Club, Umu, Mike 027 304 9252.....9.30am

Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 9.45am-12.15pm

Coromandel Bowling Club social evening at the Club ..... 3.30-7pm

Coromandel Flying Club social gathering, all welcome ..... 5.30pm

## Every Saturday

RSA Coromandel, RSA Club Rooms Woollams Ave. President Kevin Stone (07) 866 7576..... 3.30-7pm

## Every Sunday

Anglican Church Service ..... 10am

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day"..... 2pm

## Monthly

1st Mon – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms, Sharon Currie 027 299 695 ..... 9.30am-3.30pm

3rd Mon – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms, Sharon Currie 027 299 695 ..... 9.30am-3.30pm

2nd Tues – Cancer Support Group, St John rooms John Walker 027 482 0435 .....10am

1st Wed – Coro Embroiderers' Guild, St John rooms, Helen Pearce (07) 866 8460. .... 10am-3pm

1st Wed – Lions dinner meeting (winter time), St John rooms. Paul Mackenzie 021 0256 6989 ..... 6pm

2nd Wed – Garden Circle. Kath Denize (07) 866 7441, 022 413 6573 ..... 1pm

2nd Wed – Car Club meeting at The Club, Bruce 027 249 0878..... 4pm

3rd Wed – Lions business meeting (winter time), St John rooms. Paul Mackenzie 021 0256 6989 ..... 6pm

Last Thurs – Green Drinks at Star & Garter ..... 5pm

Last Thurs – DCR Music and Art Night ..... 6.30pm

1st & 3rd Sun – Church Service at St Andrew's Church, Rings Road.....10am

If your meeting has been omitted, please email Debbie at corochronicle@gmail.com with the subject "meeting" or txt/ph 021 235 6648. Please include contact name and phone number.

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MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

### Make sure your event gets listed

To get your event listed, email the details to Debbie at [corochronicle@gmail.com](mailto:corochronicle@gmail.com) with the subject "event". Published subject to space availability, with preference to not-for-profit groups. Regular meetings aren't included here - please see weekly and monthly meetings on page 29.

### COROMANDEL RUBBISH AND RECYCLING TRANSFER STATION

Monday to Sunday  
8.30am - 5.30pm

**1** Coromandel Art Group exhibition continues (see pg 24)  
Community grants scheme applications open (see ad pg 12)

High tide 12.05am (2.5m), 12.20pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 6.02am (0.7m), 6.32pm (0.7m)

**2** Waitangi Relax and Wellness Weekend starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 12.43am (2.5m), 1pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 6.44am (0.7m), 7.12pm (0.7m)

**3** Coromandel Home Grow Community Market (see pg 4)  
Car boot sale (see pg 16)  
Opening day at Coromandel Golf Course (see pg 27)  
Sam & James at Star & Garter (see ad pg 13)

High tide 1.26am (2.4m), 1.42pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 7.30am (0.8m), 7.56pm (0.8m)

**4** Coromandel Car Fair from 11am (see pg 14)  
Sunday Bowls at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 2.14am (2.4m), 2.29pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 8.22am (0.9m), 8.47pm (0.8m)

**5** Coromandel Area School closed  
Rummikub at The Club 1-4pm  
Line dancing beginners' class (see pg 18)  
Bridge Club resumes (see pg 19)

High tide 3.11am (2.4m), 3.22pm (2.4m)  
Low tide 9.21am (0.9m), 9.45pm (0.8m)

**6** Waitangi Day  
Ladies' Opening Day at Coromandel Golf Course (see pg 27)  
Open Day at Coromandel Museum (see pg 12)  
Open Floor Dance at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 4.15am (2.4m), 4.22pm (2.4m)  
Low tide 10.22am (0.9m), 10.49pm (0.7m)

**7**     
Open Optional Classic Fours Tournament at Coromandel Bowling Club (see pg 14)

High tide 5.19am (2.5m), 5.27pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 11.23am (0.8m), 11.51pm (0.6m)

**8** Art show - Tricker, Garter, Damm, Rainey opens (see pg 24)

High tide 6.19am (2.6m), 6.31pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 12.21pm (0.7m)

**9** Coromandel Home Grow Community Market (see pg 4)  
Reported Retreat with Lisa O'Neill starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)  
Last day for peak summer rubbish collection (see pg 21)

High tide 7.14am (2.8m), 7.32pm (2.7m)  
Low tide 12.49am (0.5m), 1.18pm (0.9m)

**10**   
Suff'r Turf Mixed Open at Coromandel Golf Course (see pg 27)

High tide 8.07am (3.0m), 8.28pm (2.9m)  
Low tide 1.44am (0.3m), 2.12pm (0.4m)

**11** Sunday Bowls at The Club 1-4pm  
Coromandel Art Group exhibition ends (see pg 24)

High tide 8.58am (3.1m), 9.21pm (3.0m)  
Low tide 2.36am (0.2m), 3.05pm (0.2m)

**12** Rummikub at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 9.48am (3.2m), 10.12pm (3.1m)  
Low tide 3.28am (0.1m), 3.57pm (0.2m)

**13** DEADLINE: Coromandel Town Chronicle March issue  
Open Floor Dance at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 10.39am (3.2m), 11.02pm (3.1m)  
Low tide 4.15am (0.1m), 4.46pm (0.1m)

**14**   
Water Up, Fire Down - A Saif Love and Healing Full Day at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 11.29am (3.1m), 11.52pm (3.0m)  
Low tide 5.05am (0.2m), 5.38pm (0.2m)

**15** Coromandel Home Grow Community Market (see pg 4)  
Launch of new DCR Photo Archiving website (see pg 5)  
Yummy Yoga Retreat starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 12.42am (2.9m), 1.11pm (2.9m)  
Low tide 6.50am (0.4m), 7.19pm (0.4m)

**16**   
Coromandel Home Grow Community Market (see pg 4)  
Spiraling In, Spiraling Out starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 7.23am (2.6m), 7.46pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 1.08am (0.7m), 1.33pm (0.8m)

**17**   
High tide 1.36am (2.8m), 2.04pm (2.8m)  
Low tide 7.47am (0.6m), 8.13pm (0.5m)

**18** Sunday Bowls at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 2.34am (2.6m), 3pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 8.48am (0.7m), 9.11pm (0.5m)

**19** Patchwork & Quilters AGM  
Rummikub at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 3.36am (2.5m), 3.59pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 9.52am (0.8m), 10.12pm (0.7m)

**20** Open Floor Dance at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 4.40am (2.5m), 5pm (2.4m)  
Low tide 10.54am (0.9m), 11.15pm (0.7m)

**21**   
High tide 5.40am (2.5m), 6pm (2.4m)  
Low tide 11.52am (0.9m)

**22** George Jackson and Brad Kolocher - Bluesgrass Duo at Hauraki House (see pg 25)

High tide 6.34am (2.6m), 6.56pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 12.12am (0.7m), 12.45pm (0.8m)

**23**   
Coromandel Home Grow Community Market (see pg 4)  
Spiraling In, Spiraling Out starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)

High tide 7.23am (2.6m), 7.46pm (2.5m)  
Low tide 1.08am (0.7m), 1.33pm (0.8m)

**24**   
High tide 8.06am (2.7m), 8.30pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 1.48am (0.6m), 2.16pm (0.7m)

**25**   
Art show - Tricker, Garter, Damm, Rainey ends (see pg 24)  
Sunday Bowls at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 8.48am (2.7m), 9.11pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 2.38am (0.6m), 2.56pm (0.7m)

**26** Rummikub at The Club 1-4pm

High tide 9.24am (2.7m), 9.48pm (2.7m)  
Low tide 3.06am (0.5m), 3.33pm (0.6m)

**27**   
High tide 10am (2.7m), 10.23pm (2.7m)  
Low tide 3.42am (0.5m), 4.09pm (0.6m)

**28**   
High tide 10.35am (2.7m), 10.58pm (2.7m)  
Low tide 4.17am (0.6m), 4.44pm (0.6m)

**29**   
High tide 11.10am (2.7m), 11.39pm (2.6m)  
Low tide 4.53am (0.6m), 5.19pm (0.6m)

KEY  
● New moon  
○ Full moon

Tide times and heights from Land Information NZ and are for Coromandel Harbour.  
For Thames tides -15min High and -18min Low.

Rubbish and recycle collection for Coromandel Town (CT), Te Kāiura (TK), Manua (MN), Coromandel Rural North (FN), and Thames Coast (TC)

 Put red lid rubbish bin and food scrap bin out

 Put recycling bin (plastic 1, 2 & 5 tins, paper, card, glass recycling bin and food scrap bin out



Enquiries Over \$530,000



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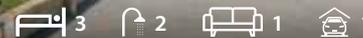
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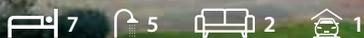
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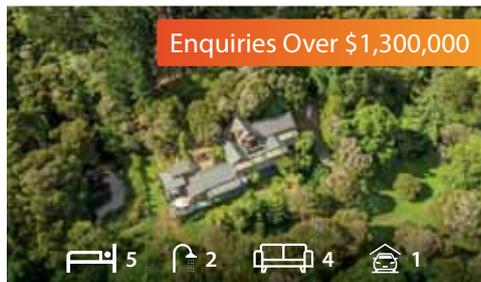
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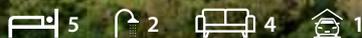
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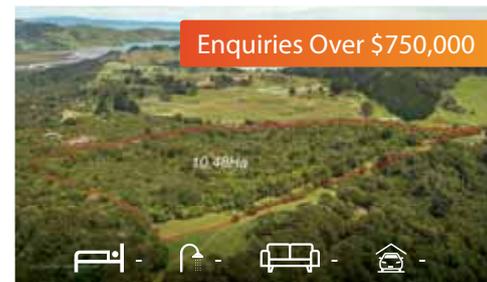
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SOLD



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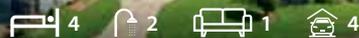
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